

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed May 22, 2006, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 13, 49 through 69, 91, and 93 through 100 are currently pending in the application. Claims 5, 10 through 12, 56, 61, 64 through 68, 93 through 98, and 100 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 8, 49, 50, 52 through 55, 57 through 60, 69, 91, and 99 stand rejected. Claims 4, 9, 13, 14, 51, 62, 63, and 92 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims.

Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 13, 49, and 91. Regarding the proposed amendments: the subject matter of claim 14 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 14 has been cancelled herein; the subject matter of claim 51 has been incorporated into independent claim 49, and claim 51 has been cancelled; the subject matter of claim 92 has been incorporated into independent claim 91, and claim 92 has been cancelled herein. New claims 101 through 130 have been added. Support for new independent claim 101 may be found in claim 1 and in claim 4 (prior to the proposed amendments herein). Support for new claims 102 through 108, which depend from claim 101, may be found in the as-filed claims. Support for new independent claim 109 may be found in claims 1 and 13 (prior to the proposed amendments herein). Support for new claims 110 through 113, which depend from claim 109, may be found in the as-filed claims. Support for new independent claim 114 may be found in claims 49 and 62 (prior to the proposed amendments herein). Support for new claims 115 through 130, which depend from claim 114, may be found in the as-filed claims. No new matter has been added. The proposed amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as proposed to be amended herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 5,050,892 to Kawai *et al.*

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 8, 49, 50, 52 through 55, 57 through 60, 69, 91, and 99 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawai *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,050,892). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Regarding independent claim 1, as noted above, Applicants propose to amend claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 14, which subject matter was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 as amended is therefore allowable.

Likewise, claims 2, 3, and 6 through 8 are also allowable for at least the reason of depending from allowable independent claim 1.

Regarding independent claim 49, as noted above, Applicants propose to amend claim 49 to include the subject matter of claim 51, which subject matter was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Applicants therefore submit that claim 49 as amended is therefore allowable.

Likewise, claims 50, 52 through 55, 57 through 60, and 69 are also allowable for at least the reason of depending from allowable independent claim 49.

Regarding independent claim 91, as noted above, Applicants propose to amend claim 91 to include the subject matter of claim 92, which subject matter was indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Applicants therefore submit that claim 91 as amended is therefore allowable.

Likewise, claim 99 is also allowable for at least the reason of depending from allowable independent claim 91.

Objections to Claims 4, 9, 13, 14, 51, 62, 63, and 92/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 9, 13, 14, 51, 62, 63, and 92 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. As noted above, the subject matter of allowable claim 14 has been incorporated into claim 1. The subject matter of allowable claim 51 has been incorporated into claim 49. The subject matter of allowable claim 92 has been incorporated into claim 91. Claim 4 (prior to the proposed amendments herein) has been rewritten as new independent claim 101. Claim 13 (prior to the proposed amendments herein) has been rewritten as new independent

claim 109. Claim 62 (prior to the proposed amendments herein) has been rewritten as new independent claim 114.

Rejoinder

Upon allowance of independent claim 1 rejoinder and allowance of claims 5 and 10 through 12, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, is respectfully requested as allowed by M.P.E.P. § 821.04(a). Similarly, upon allowance of independent claim 49 rejoinder and allowance of claims 56, 61, and 64 through 68, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, is respectfully requested. Likewise, upon allowance of independent claim 91 rejoinder and allowance of claims 93 through 98 and 100, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom, is respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

New claims 101 through 130 and the proposed amendments to claims 1, 49, and 91 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search. Finally, if the Examiner determines that the amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, entry is respectfully requested upon filing of a Notice of Appeal herein.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 13, 49 through 69, 91, and 93 through 130 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley B. Jensen
Registration No. 46,801
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

Date: August 22, 2006

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